

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Masahiko HASUNUMA et al.)
) Group Art Unit:
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned)
) Examiner:
Filed: September 3, 2003)
)
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE)
)

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents:

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1. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 11-176835 - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application.
2. Japanese Patent Laid Open (KOKAI) No. 11-307633 discloses the formation of dummy lines and dummy via holes at the no line area of a multi level lines structure.
3. Japanese Patent Laid Open (KOKAI) No. 2001-267323 discloses the formation of dummy lines and via holes under the pad area.
4. Japanese Patent Laid Open (KOKAI) No. 2001-196372 discloses the formation of dummy lines and dummy via holes at the no line area of a multi level lines structure.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please
charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 3, 2003

By: 

Richard V. Burgujian
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Enclosures
RVB/FPD/gah

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	04329.3133	Serial No.	
Applicant	Masahiko HASUNUMA et al.		
Filing Date	September 3, 2003	Group:	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
		6,037,668	03/14/2000	Cave et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
		11-176835	07/02/1999	Japan			No
		11-307633	11/05/1999	Japan			No
		2001-267323	09/28/2001	Japan			No
		2001-196372	07/19/2001	Japan			No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	Kurashima et al; "SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD"; U.S. Patent Application No. 10/640,004, filed August 14, 2003

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce